Can you name that premier?

This one is easy. But how well do you know the rest of Canada's premiers? Take our quiz to find out PAGE 6



CRIME DOWN IN HRM & NOVA SCOTIA

NEW STATSCAN DATA REVEALS THE SAME HOLDS TRUE ACROSS THE COUNTRY PAGE 3

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HALIFAX metro®

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

News worth sharing.

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Province mum on finance review

CIS. Division employs about 80 people in Halifax



ALEX BOUTILIER
alex.boutilier@metronews.ca

The division of government that manages payroll and keeps track of human-resources matters is currently under review.

And it comes at a time when the provincial New Democrats are in talks with an unnamed third party about the Corporate Information Systems division, which employs about 80 people in Halifax.

CIS provides support for the SAP system — an "enterprise resource planning system" for the province and public-sector clients. SAP is projected to cost government approximately $20.72 million in 2012.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Finance confirmed Tuesday the division was under review.

"We told our employees about a week and a half ago that SAP services (are) under review," said Michelle Lucas.

"That's about as much as we've shared."

Metro Halifax requested records concerning proposed changes to the CIS division from both the Department of Finance and Nova Scotia Business Inc. in May. Both requests were turned down, citing cabinet confidentiality, advice to the Minister of Finance, as well as third-party confidentiality.

Lucas would not disclose who that third-party company is. When asked if the government was considering outsourcing that division, Lucas said the review concerns the "service delivery model."

Most of the 80 CIS workers are members of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union.

SAP was brought in by the former Liberal government in 1997. Before he resigned as finance minister, Graham Steele told Metro the government had no plans to change from the SAP system.

"It has been very difficult to contain the cost (of SAP)," Steele said in May.

"It's just a very big, expensive system … (but) we're far too far invested in it to even consider doing anything different. So we have to do the best with what we have."

The province's current finance minister, Maureen MacDonald, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Also on the payroll

The province's CIS division also manages payroll for the province's District Health Authorities, some school boards, Halifax Water, the NSLC and regional housing authorities.



SUNNY SIGN OF A GREAT STREET PARTY

A cyclist heads down Northwood Terrace past a huge street mural on Tuesday. The mural was part of a recent street party in the north-end Halifax neighbourhood. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

D-man sorry for damaging Memorial Cup

Shawingan Cataractes defenceman Dillon Donnelly tweets an apology PAGE 23

Hey, big spender

Former cabinet minister Bev Oda paid back inappropriate expenses on five occasions PAGE 8



Free Lunch and Learn
11:00 am — 1:00 pm
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Public discussion on health care with:
- James D. Hughes, Graham Boeckh Foundation
- Kim McGrail, University of British Columbia
- Chris Power, Capital Health

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nursesunions.ca
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Payments from: $55 /wk** TAX INCLUDED $0 MONEY DOW



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AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2009 CHEV AVEO SEDAN



HAS ONLY 20,000KM'S

WAS $10,980

NOW $7,980*

$37 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2010 KIA FORTE



HAS ONLY 21,000KM'S

WAS $13,980

NOW $9,980*

$40 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2007 CHEV OPTRA



AUTO, AC, WITH ONLY 69,000KM

WAS $7980

NOW $2,980*

RUNS GREAT, HURRY IN WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2011 JEEP COMPASS 4X4



NORTH EDITION, 4X4

WAS $20,980

NOW $17,980*

$63 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2011 CHRYSLER 300C



HEMI AND FULLY LOADED

WAS $32,980

NOW $28,980*

$99 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2011 GRAND CHEROKEE



LAREDO LOADED & LEATHER

WAS $34,980

NOW $27,980*

$96 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2007 HONDA FIT



AUTO WITH AIR

WAS $9980

NOW $6,980*

$38 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2009 PONTIAC WAVE



SEDAN WITH ONLY 20KMS!

WAS $10,980

NOW $7,980*

$37 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2008 TOYOTA CAMRY SE



FULLY LOADED

WAS $15,980

NOW $11,980*

$64 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2003 F-250 XLT EXT. CAB



DIESEL! HARD TO FIND VEHICLE

WAS $11,980

NOW $7,980*

READY FOR WORK! WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2008 GR. CHEROKEE LTD



DIESEL! LIMITED EDITION W/DVD

WAS $27,980

NOW $21,980*

$114 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2011 JEEP PATRIOT 4X4



NORTH EDITION, 4X4, DEMO

WAS $22,980

NOW $18,980*

$66 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2010 HONDA CIVIC



AUTO WITH AIR

WAS $15,980

NOW $12,980*

$51 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2010 RAM 2500 4X4



CREW CAB 4X4

WAS $35,980

NOW $25,980*

$99 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2009 JEEP LIBERTY 4X4



NORTH EDITION 4X4

WAS $17,980

NOW $13,980*

$63 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2012 RAM LONGHORN



CREW CAB LONGHORN

WAS $58,135

NOW $41,980*

$144 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2009 CHALLENGER SXT



LIKE NEW SXT CHALLENGER

NOW $19,980*

$81 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2009 F-250 "CABELAS"



DIESEL! LEATHER, ROOF, AND FULLY LOADED

NOW $41,980*

$182 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT STEELE CHRYSLER — 2010 HYUNDAI GENESIS



3.8L, LEATHER, ROOF, AND FULLY LOADED

NOW $22,980*

$89 WK TAX IN • $0 DOWN!** WITH $1000 GUARANTEED TRADE!

AT HALIFAX CHRYSLER — 2011 DODGE CALIBER



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Warrant.
Search on for violent man, warn police


Jeremy William Coleman
HRP HANDOUT

Police are warning the public to be on the look-out for a man who they believe poses a risk to the public.

Halifax police issued a warrant for the arrest of Jeremy William Coleman, 19, after he allegedly broke his parole. He was previously convicted of violent offences.

"He does have a history of violence and we do believe he poses a risk to the public," said Const. Brian Palmeter with Halifax Regional Police. "We're asking the public not to approach him, not to take matters into their own hands. If they see him, contact police immediately."

Palmeter said informing the public immediately of warrants like these — individuals with violent pasts who are at large — is something police will be doing more.

Palmeter said Coleman has ties to the Halifax and Dartmouth areas. "We believe he's in HRM," Palmeter said.

According to court documents, Coleman was last scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 11 in Truro, but he didn't show up. He was due in court to face charges of trafficking a credit card, forgery, impaired driving, three charges of failure to attend, and one breach of probation.

If someone knows of his whereabouts, they are asked to contact police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

Truro

Propane tank put in oven during domestic dispute

A domestic disturbance became a potentially explosive situation Monday night when Truro police responded to a call about a propane canister placed in a stove oven.

"Prior to arrival, officers were advised by the complainant that her boyfriend was drunk and put a propane tank in the oven and turned the oven on," Insp. Robert Hearn of the Truro Police Service said. Hearn said police responded quickly removing the canister.

A 38-year-old Truro man has been charged with mischief endangering life, assault with a weapon, assault, and breaching a court order not to drink alcohol.

TRURO DAILY NEWS


Halifax police dealt with less crime in 2011 than in 2010, according to Statistics Canada. METRO FILE PHOTO

Crime down in HRM and across province

Nationwide. Statistics Canada data shows similar trends exist across the country


ALEX BOUTILIER
alex.boutilier@metronews.ca

Halifax's overall crime rate saw a double-digit decline in 2011, dropping 11 per cent from 2010.

But a spike in the number of homicides put the municipality just behind Winnipeg for the highest homicide rate in the country.

Data released by Statistics Canada Tuesday shows a decline in both the municipality's overall crime rate (11 per cent) and the violent crime rate (12 per cent).

Overall crime severity is down nine per cent over 2010, while violent crime severity was up six per cent.

The declines are part of a long-term downward trend in the crime rate across Canada, according to Statistics Canada.

"It's hard to give an exact reason for why the numbers are down," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter. "Certainly, the numbers have been declining over the last six years steadily. But we also have to acknowledge the fact that we can only report what the public reports to us."

Palmeter said there was no evidence pointing to people being less forthcoming with police, but that some crimes such as sexual assault are more likely to go unreported.

The decline in Halifax's crime rate is mirrored on both the provincial and the national level.

In 2011, Nova Scotia's overall crime and violent crime rates both dropped seven per cent over 2010. Nationally, the overall rate of crime decreased six per cent, while violent crime decreased four per cent.

The national crime rate is now the lowest its been since 1972, and has been in decline since peaking in 1991.

Homicides

18

The number of homicides in HRM for 2011, a record total.

Man roughs up cops twice: HRP

An intoxicated man allegedly assaulted police not once but twice on Monday night.

Two Halifax Regional Police officers were called to the Quinpool Road area at 9:30 p.m. for a report of a suspected impaired driver.

They found and approached a man in a vehicle in the Atlantic Superstore parking lot. That's when police say the man jumped out of the car and ran towards the two officers.

He allegedly fought with police. An officer pulled out a Taser but one of the two electrical prongs didn't hit and was ineffective.

"That's when he broke free and started running away," said HRP spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter. "He tripped while he was running and that's when he was injured."

The 26-year-old man hit his head and was bleeding, but that didn't stop him. Palmeter said he continued striking at the officers.

"They were on the ground wrestling," Palmeter said.

Two other officers arrived on the scene and the four arrested the man. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Two of the attending officers also went to the hospital because the suspect's blood was on them. Palmeter said when there is a blood exchange, officers are examined at the hospital. "While he was there (at the hospital), we're alleging he kicked one of the officers who was guarding him," Palmeter said.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

Charges laid

The suspect was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday to face charges of impaired driving, resisting arrest and assaulting police officers.

1 NEWS

News in brief

Bale Rises to occasion

Actor Christian Bale visited moviegoers injured at the midnight screening of The Dark Knight Rises in Colorado. Go to metronews.ca to find out more.

Stuck on obesity theory

A Canadian scientist has found himself in a sticky situation after claiming the popular war on obesity is unfairly targeting fructose as 'a metabolic evil.' Go to metronews.ca to read his theory.

On the web

They're quick, agile and our nation's best hope for gold at the upcoming London Games. Scan the code to view a gallery and profiles of the top 10 Canadian athletes to watch out for at the Olympics.

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Master Warrant Officer Sean Gould gives a tour of the Meteorological and Oceanography Centre room at CFB Halifax on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

Military rejigs weather offices

Centralizing operations. Defence Minister Peter MacKay made similar announcement at CFB Gagetown Tuesday



JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Whether planning a mission in Afghanistan or scheduling a naval exercise close to home, weather forecasting is crucial to military operations.

On Tuesday the federal government announced they are centralizing the military's Weather and Oceanographic Service and spending $28.1 million on the weather offices at CFB Gagetown, CFB Esquimalt and CFB Halifax.

Most of the money is headed towards New Brunswick, where weather briefings and forecasting functions will be centralized at Gagetown.

But some money will be spent in Halifax expanding cramped space, updating computer systems, and adding two personnel. Across the country two weather offices will be shut down and other offices will be reduced.

The exact dollar amount being spent in Halifax isn't known yet as the renovation contract hasn't been finalized.

"It's to bring ourselves online with the Canadian Forces as a whole," said Master Warrant Officer Sean Gould, who works in the Meteorological and Oceanographic Centre in Halifax.

The 24-7 office at CFB Halifax is staffed by eight military officers, eight Environment Canada employees and four IT professionals. They provide frequent weather information to commanding officers and the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.

These individuals are often deployed on military ships to forecast weather at sea, especially for the Sea King helicopters.

"It's not simply a matter of looking out into the harbour and seeing what the weather is today, but we have missions around the world that need constant updating and support," said MP Gerald Keddy, who made the announcement in Halifax Tuesday.

Upgraded technology

- The new technology will enable the meteorological technicians (met-techs) to brief their colleagues in more remote areas and keep up with increasing demand for their services.

Australian diplomat briefed on espionage case: Reports

Australian media reports say that country's high commissioner to Canada was briefed on the case of a Bedford navy officer accused of espionage shortly after his arrest in January.

The Sydney Morning Herald reports on its website that the federal government briefed Louise Hand on the case of Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle, who is charged with passing information to a foreign entity that could harm Canada's interests.

The newspaper cites information it obtained using Australia's access-to-information laws, saying Hand discussed Delisle's case with Prime Minister Stephen Harper's national-security adviser.

But the paper says Hand's cabled report on the briefing, which was sent to Canberra on Jan. 30, was withheld on national-security grounds. It says the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation was also briefed on Delisle's case through its counterpart, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

At a funding announcement in Oshawa, Ont., Harper declined comment on the Australian report, saying he doesn't speak about national-security matters.

Delisle has yet to enter a plea, but he has elected to be tried by a judge and jury in Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

He has been in custody at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Burnside since his arrest on Jan. 14, and a preliminary hearing is set for October. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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As Canada's premiers meet in Halifax this week for the Council of the Federation, we thought it would be fun to see how well you know our provincial and territorial leaders
There are 13 in total – 10 provinces and three territories
Take the test and see how you do. The answers are in the bottom corner of the page

Can you name that premier?



1
Did you know? Is a former university professor of social work. METRO FILE



2
Did you know? Was the first person in their family to attend university. METRO FILE



3
Did you know? Was the youngest federal cabinet minister in Canadian history in 1986. THE CANADIAN PRESS



4
Did you know? Is the youngest premier in Canada. CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN



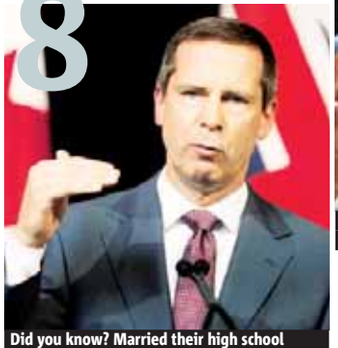
5
Did you know? Won the Economic Developer of the Year award in 1999 for his province. METRO FILE



6
Did you know? Went to university for social work but never graduated. THE CANADIAN PRESS



7
Did you know? Is a certified official for both hockey and swimming. CONTRIBUTED



8
Did you know? Married their high school sweetheart in 1980. THE CANADIAN PRESS



9
Did you know? Raises purebred Hereford cattle in his spare time. THE CANADIAN PRESS



10
Did you know? Owns an arts and crafts store and used to be a reporter for CBC. CONTRIBUTED



11
Did you know? Left the political world for five years to host an afternoon radio talk show. METRO FILE



12
Did you know? Also president of a recreational hockey league and a golf club. CONTRIBUTED



13
Did you know? Was appointed to administer Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections in 2005. METRO FILE

Scoring box

How many could you identify?

- **13.** You should run for Prime Minister.
- **10-12.** Canadian politics is your thing.
- **7-9.** Might want to consider reading the newspaper a bit more.
- **4-6.** Sign-up for a Canadian politics course — now.
- **1-3.** Good enough to warrant a Senate appointment.
- **0.** Sad. You couldn't even name your own premier.

Answers

1. Gregory Selinger – Manitoba
2. Darrell Dexter – Nova Scotia
3. Jean Charest – Quebec
4. Robert Ghiz – Prince Edward Island
5. Brad Wall – Saskatchewan
6. Kathy Dunderdale – Newfoundland and Labrador
7. Darrell Pasloski – Yukon
8. Dalton McGuinty – Ontario
9. David Alward – New Brunswick
10. Eva Aariak – Nunavut
11. Christy Clark – British Columbia
12. Bob McLeod – Northwest Territories
13. Alison Redford – Alberta

Premiers, aboriginal leaders commit to mitigating violence against women

Premiers meeting.
Research estimates put the number of missing aboriginal women from past two decades at 600

If Bernadette Smith could pull up a chair at Wednesday's meeting between Canada's premiers and aboriginal leaders, she would tell them about her missing sister. And, chances are, the politicians would listen.

Violence against aboriginal women has surged to the top of the agenda for the premiers and the leaders of First Nations, Inuit and Metis groups gathering in Lunenburg. And, for that, Smith is grateful.

Talk and symbolic action, however, won't cut it.

Smith's sister, Claudette Osborne, disappeared off the streets of Winnipeg four years ago to the day — two weeks after giving birth to a daughter, and eight months after kicking her drug habit. She has never been found.

"When my sister went missing, it took them 10 days to put a media release out. They didn't really take it seriously, and from what I hear from other families, it's the same situation," Smith said.

The chiefs, the premiers, law enforcement and the federal government all know what to do about violence against aboriginal women, she added.

"We know what the problems are, and we need some more resources put in place."



Shawn Cameron Lamb
POLICE HANDOUT

The issue has been debated in aboriginal circles for years, but has taken on significant momentum since the arrest last month of Shawn Cameron Lamb, accused in a string of killings involving aboriginal women in Winnipeg.

Last week in Toronto, the issue became a rallying point for candidates competing for the post of national chief, and was the subject of much emotional discussion in the corridors of the annual general meeting of the Assembly of First Nations.

Now, violence against women has taken its place alongside development of natural resources and education on the national agenda.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sydney

Pit bull involved in second biting incident

A Sydney man is recovering after being attacked by the same pit bull that was involved in an incident last month in which a young girl was bitten.

On July 18, Patrick Hill, who lives in a Cape Breton Island Housing Authority unit on East James Street in Whitney Pier, was on his way to catch the bus when he says he was attacked, unprovoked, by a dog owned by another resident. He said the pit bull ripped through his running shoes, new pants and shirt, biting him on the lower leg, thigh and shoulder. Eventually the dog's owner was able to pull the animal away. The dog was not on a leash at the time of the attack.

"I was really ripped up," the 58-year-old said, noting that police took photographs of his injuries.

"They'll take months to heal, they will scar."

Hill was transported to hospital after neighbours called an ambulance. There, he received stitches for his injuries. The dog had been living at the apartment building for about two years, since it was a puppy, Hill said.

CAPE BRETON POST

Quoted

"I never trusted that dog from Day 1."
Patrick Hill

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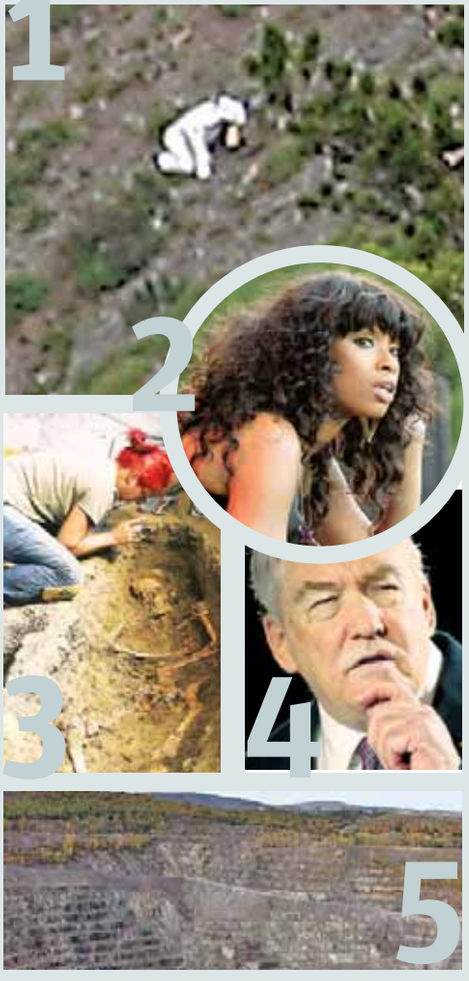
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News at a glance



1 Mystery hunter. Man in a goat suit says it was just a test

Utah officials have questioned a man wearing a goat suit among a herd of wild goats in the Wasatch Mountains. The man said he was testing the suit prior to a goat hunt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 Life in prison. William Balfour jailed in Jennifer Hudson case

The man convicted of gunning down the mother, brother and seven-year-old nephew of actress Jennifer Hudson was sentenced to life in prison Tuesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 The da Vinci smile. Is body that of beguiling Mona Lisa?

Archeologists have found a skeleton buried inside an Italian monastery that could belong to Lisa Gherardini, the first model for Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 Order of Canada. Conrad Black wants to tell it as he sees it

Ex-media mogul Conrad Black says he wants an oral hearing as the Order of Canada advisory council decides whether to strip him of the award. THE CANADIAN PRESS

5 Targeting a killer. Over 150 groups seek ban on asbestos

More than 150 international and Canadian public-health organizations are demanding a worldwide ban on the mining and use of asbestos. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spend, spend, spend. Besides London high living, Bev Oda reimbursed taxpayers for other expenses

Former Conservative cabinet minister Bev Oda reimbursed taxpayers for inappropriate travel and hospitality expenses incurred on five separate occasions, it was revealed Tuesday.

The reimbursements followed revelations of her lavish spending while attending an international immunization conference in London last year.

"The former minister's expenses were re-examined and all inappropriate expenses were repaid," Stephanie Rea, now director of communications for the newly appointed International Co-operation Minister Julian Fantino, wrote in an email on Tuesday.

Oda came under fire this spring after the Canadian Press reported she had switched her reservation from the five-star Grange St. Paul's Hotel to the more expensive Savoy.

She also hired a chauffeur to drive her around in a luxury car and bought a glass of orange juice for $16 while in London in June 2011.

Access-to-information legislation showed that in addition to reimbursing taxpayers for the questionable charges in London, Oda had four other expense claims dating back to 2007 altered soon after the story appeared.

The changes included deleting the entry for a $208.32 dinner in London.

Oda is set to retire from politics next week.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE


Bev Oda paid $16 for a glass of orange juice while in London in June 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anger amid the final farewells: Victims' families speak out

Colorado massacre. Orange hair, glassy eyes spark the question: Is the Dark Knight shooting-rampage suspect sane?


Ashley Deuell kneels Tuesday at a memorial to a family friend, a massacre victim. TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The families of those killed in the Colorado theatre massacre planned their final goodbyes Tuesday, their anger stirred by the sight of suspect James Holmes in a courtroom with dyed orange-red hair and glassy eyes.

Tom Teves, the father of one of the 12 people Holmes is accusing of killing in Friday's shooting rampage, called the suspect "a coward" for allegedly attacking defenceless victims.

Another 58 people were wounded in one of the worst mass shootings in recent U.S. history.

Robert Blache watched video clips from Holmes' seemingly dazed court appearance with his injured daughter Christina, who was shot in both legs at the midnight première of the new Batman film The Dark Knight Rises.

"He doesn't look surprised at any of it, but he seemed amazed at what was happening. I'm pretty sure he's not sane," Blache said.

After Holmes was led back to his solitary confinement cell, victims' families were left to plan funerals.

Holmes is being held on suspicion of first-degree murder, and he could face additional counts of aggravated assault and weapons violations. He won't be formally charged until next Monday.

Police expect months of working with behavioural analysts and scrutinizing Holmes' relationships to establish a motive. They say Holmes isn't co-operating.

Prosecutor Carol Chambers said her office is considering the death penalty.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other incidents

Three men accused of making threats during or after watching the new Batman movie have been arrested in separate incidents across the U.S. In Arizona, about 50 people fled a theatre. The other incidents were in Maine and Southern California.

African study

Vaginal ring an AIDS fighter?

Thousands of women in Africa can volunteer for major new research to see if inserting a vaginal ring coated with an anti-AIDS drug could protect them from HIV infection, U.S. scientists announced Tuesday.

The vaginal ring would have to be inserted just once a month for ongoing protection.

The work centres on "the next generation of women-focused prevention tools," Dr. Carl Dieffenbach said at the International AIDS Conference.

"We need options that fit readily into women's lives," added Dr. Sharon Hillier of the University of Pittsburgh.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Niagara Gorge drama

Man dead, officer injured after fall

An injured Niagara Regional Police officer and the body of a man have been pulled from the Niagara Gorge after both went over a retaining wall late Tuesday afternoon.

The police officer was the first pulled about 30 metres out of the gorge in Niagara Falls.

The officer had sustained a broken leg and was airlifted to hospital in Hamilton. The province's police watchdog, the Special Investigation Unit, says the man died of injuries suffered in the fall.

The SIU says the officer was chasing a man and they both went over the gorge wall. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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400 new jobs. Toyota investing $100 million in Cambridge, Ont., plant

Toyota's Canadian manufacturing arm says it's investing $100 million in its Cambridge, Ont., plant — a move that will see it hire 400 workers.

The investment announced Tuesday will increase the production of the company's Lexus RX models, from 30,000 vehicles to 104,000 at the southwestern Ontario facility.

Toyota Canada says the investment includes 15,000 RX450h vehicles, the hybrid electric version of the popular Lexus, and will take its annual production capacity in Canada to 500,000 units.

"For almost nine years now, Canada has had the only Lexus production outside of Japan," TMMC chairman Ray Tanguay said in a release.

"New jobs, along with new technology, is great news for Canada." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Expanding production

- Toyota said it is targeting early 2014 for expanded Lexus production.
- In March, the company announced it would ramp up production of its RAV4 crossover vehicles, which would also create some 400 new jobs at its assembly plant in Woodstock, Ont.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98¢ (-0.35¢)

TSX 11,466.95 (-78.59)

OIL $88.50 US (+36¢)

GOLD $1,576.20 US (-$1.20)

Natural gas: $3.128 US (+1.1¢)
Dow Jones: 12,617.32 (-104.14)

GM makes $850M R&D investment in Oshawa

Auto announcement. Workers question whether vehicles that result from cash influx will be produced in Canada

GM Canada is investing $850 million in research and development at its complex east of Toronto, an announcement hailed by the prime minister as proof of the automaker's commitment to Canada as it makes good on its bailout commitments, but regarded cautiously by auto workers.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who attended the GM announcement in Oshawa, Ont., said the money represents "exciting future implications" with ripple effects that will be felt throughout the economy.

The federal and Ontario governments invested a total of $10.5 billion in GM Canada in 2009 as the automaker struggled to survive the economic downturn.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper plugs in a GM Volt electric car at the GM plant in Oshawa, Ont., on Tuesday, alongside GM Canada president Kevin Williams, left, and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty.
AARON VINCENT ELKAIM /THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

$1B

GM's $850-million investment came on the same day Toyota pledged $100 million to boost production in Cambridge, Ont., making for nearly $1 billion in auto-sector investment in Ontario in a single day.

The $850-million investment is aimed at meeting R&D spending commitments the automaker made under the bailout.

GM says the investment in R&D at the Canadian Engineering Centre will make the facility an integral part of its global engineering and R&D networks. But the company did not give any specific announcement about whether new jobs would be created.

The money will also go toward enhancing partnerships with automotive suppliers, including "new co-development projects and greater opportunities for start-ups to access funding through GM Ventures." THE CANADIAN PRESS





U.K. Charges laid against ex-News Corp. editors in phone-hacking scandal

Britain's phone-hacking scandal entered a new and expanded criminal phase Tuesday, with charges brought against two former members of Prime Minister David Cameron's inner circle over a campaign of illegal espionage that has rocked the country's establishment.

The Crown Prosecution Service announced Tuesday that Andy Coulson and Rebekah Brooks — both former editors of Rupert Murdoch's now-shuttered News of the World tabloid — were among eight people being charged with conspiring to intercept the communications of at least 600 people from 2000 to 2006.

The alleged victims included everyone from a murdered teenager to Hollywood power couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.



Rebekah Brooks, former chief executive of News International.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coulson and Brooks, who had previously been charged in related cases, have both denied any wrongdoing and vowed to fight the charges. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Economic indicator

Retail sales up in May: StatsCan

More Canadians went shopping in May, driving retail sales up slightly to $38.9 billion.

Statistics Canada says sales rose 0.3 per cent, with gains reported in six of 11 sub-sectors.

Overall, retail sales have been relatively flat since November 2011.

The agency reports that stronger sales of food drove the increase at supermarkets and general-merchandise stores and clothing and accessories sales also rose.

But sales were down in the car industry and at electronic and appliance stores.

StatsCan says retail sales rose in six provinces, with Alberta reporting the largest increase in dollar terms. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Commercial real estate to rise: BMO

BMO Economics says the commercial real-estate market — which has been characterized by cautious growth since a severe market downturn in the 1990s — will become a draw for investors into next year, thanks to a strong real-estate market and low interest rates.

Earl Sweet, senior economist and managing director at BMO Capital Markets, said vacancy rates in the commercial real-estate sector are lower than historical norms in many Canadian cities.

"The commercial real-estate industry benefits from the healthy condition of Canada's financial institutions, the participation of large, well-funded operators and institutional investors, whose long-term objectives reduce volatility during downturns," Sweet said in a report.

But the market is likely to grow at a more tempered pace this year and next, noted Sweet, as Canada's economic growth slows to two per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LACKLUSTRE OLYMPIC SPIRIT



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

The Summer Olympics start in a couple of days, but you wouldn't know it here in Vancouver, the city that hosted the most recent Olympics. 2010, remember?

You think they'd fire up the flame one more time in solidarity, but it just sits there overlooking the North Shore mountains, the scene of so many gold-medal triumphs, like a spent Bic, not a flicker.

Even though the Vancouver weather has been reminiscent of the Olympic weather (cold and wet), hardly anyone is wearing the Olympic gear that not so long ago led them to endure daylong lineups in front of the Bay — just for the mittens.

John Furlong, the czar of the 2010 games and the chair of Canada's Own the Podium program, isn't even going to London to cheer on Canada's athletes.

They'll have to own the podium without him, as he says the money will be better spent elsewhere.

Maybe they'll only be able to afford to rent the podium. Time-share?

City of no enthusiasm

"This apparent lack of Olympic rah-rah is puzzling when you consider the local frenzy whipped up during the 2010 Games."

This apparent lack of Olympic rah-rah is puzzling when you consider the local frenzy whipped up during the 2010 Games. The streets were jammed with millions of people who would stand in line for hours just to get a glimpse of the Olympic torch or to zipline across Robson Street. They'd stand in front of the mint just to look at an Olympic gold medal. When Sid the Kid scored the goal that won the gold medal for Canada's hockey team, the entire city erupted in a roar that could be heard all the way to Wembley Stadium.

But now? Not a peep. It's eerie.

Maybe we're Olympicked out. Another one? Already? Or maybe we're just a Winter Olympics kind of town, though given the daily parade of Lycra-clad cyclists all-out pursuing their personal best, you'd be forgiven for thinking the opposite.

The only thing that hasn't changed between these Games and Vancouver's is the British press. The news is a blood sport in Britain. You'd think it's the Hunger Games the way they gnash their collective chattering teeth about anticipated traffic woes, the stupid mascots, massive security problems, the controversy over a memorial for the Israeli athletes killed in Munich, the food, etc., confidently predicting the worst Olympics ever. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Of course, if we get to the podium often enough, it won't matter if we own it, rent it or pawn it.

And if Simon Whitfield wins the triathlon gold, you'll be able to hear the roar all the way to Vancouver.

But for now, it's quiet. Too quiet. Cue the national anthem ...



Well, it looks like somebody is into it. These basketball-team members from Canada jump for joy at the Olympic rings inside the Olympic Village Tuesday in London. SUZANNE PLUNKETT/GETTY IMAGES

Eyeful tower an eyesore?



EMILIO MORENATTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looming over Olympics

Orbit Tower not understood

A security member takes photos at the Orbit observation tower inside Olympic Park in London.

Looming large over the Olympic Stadium, the contorted mass of steel spiralling 115 metres up into the London skies is dividing opinions before the Games have even begun.

The Orbit Tower was conceived as London's answer to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, having already beaten out the French capital to host the 2012 Olympics.

But to what purpose is this crushed, swirling roller-coaster design by sculptors Anish Kapoor and Cecil Balmond?

An observation deck? Maybe a mysterious monument to the Olympics, like the Sphinx to ancient Egypt? Or just a piece of modern art?

From afar, the 2,000-tonne structure resembles the heart of a theme park. But this is Olympic Park — and Britain's biggest-ever piece of public art is, to some, just a complex platform providing vistas of the capital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Design commentary

"Half of the steel isn't doing a job for the height.... It looks a contorted mass of entrails being stretched and knotted into oblivion."

Oliver Wainwright of Building Design magazine

Pricey project

Olympic flame goes elsewhere

Steel baron Lakshmi Mittal, whose company donated the steel and is funding most of the $36.5-million US project, maintains there is no place for the ceremonial flame atop the tower.

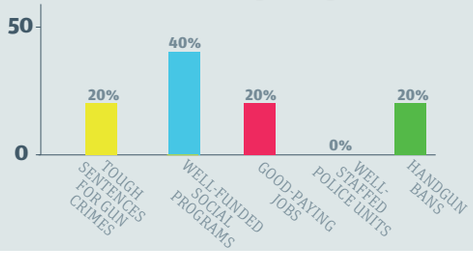
"It's strange if there are no ties to the Olympic cauldron, to make sure when the flame was lit for the entirety it could be seen all around from an open area," said Anna-Maria Sponaski, a native of Vancouver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What's the best defence against gun crime?



Twitter

@PeelerCards: Enjoy Glen Arbor Mr. Mayor! "@bradwoodside: TELUSworldskins. Excited to be playing in the ProAm with Kevin Costner in Halifax." #nsgolf

@MattD1188: I didn't realize it was a crime to post birthday wishes to @JLo on Facebook! Why am the only one in Halifax that LOVES Jenny!?!?

@mullosity: Today I'll settle for finishing #metro #Halifax 's suduko as my biggest accomplishment #rainyday

@StooMetz: Hey #Halifax i'm flying back from #Toronto in about an hour, so you know, hide ya kids, hide ya wife etc etc

@jdeegull: Finally the much needed rain started in #halifax. I can have a bonfire again! #summertime

metro

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2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Polley's conflicting stories

A new documentary directed by Oscar-nominated Canadian Sarah Polley will debut at the Venice Film Festival. Produced by the National Film Board, Stories We Tell finds the Toronto filmmaker investigating the secrets behind a family of storytellers. Polley uses playful interviews with the family to explore their candid yet contradictory answers to the same questions. Thirty-three-year-old Polley's last film, Take This Waltz, starred Michelle Williams and Seth Rogen and premiered at last year's Toronto International Film Festival.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Some choose back-row seats, others check for police, but fans still throng to see Dark Knight Rises



Being released this weekend, The Watch was once called Neighbourhood Watch but had a name change after recent tragic events. HANDOUT

Keep Watch on the name game

Movie titles. Richard Crouse looks at the long history of studios and TV stations forced to change the names of films and shows



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

This weekend a movie called The Watch is opening in theatres. The Ben Stiller comedy was originally called Neighborhood Watch but the February, 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin by a neighborhood watch coordinator in Florida led to the change.

In a statement, 20th Century Fox said, "As the subject matter of this alien invasion comedy bears no relation whatsoever to the recent tragic events in Florida, the studio altered the title to avoid any accidental or unintended misimpression that it might."

The sad incident that prompted the name change was unusual, but title tweaking is commonplace in Hollywood.

Sometimes moniker modification happens for practical reasons.

In the early stages of development, American Pie was known as Teenage Sex Comedy That Can Be Made For Under $10 Million That Your Reader Will Love But The Executive Will Hate. That unwieldy name got the attention of Universal Studios who changed it to East Great Falls High and then Comfort Food before settling on American Pie.

The Tribal Rites of the New Saturday Night was also considered too long a name and changed to Saturday Night Fever, lifted from the Bee Gees song Night Fever.

A Roy Orbison song triggered the title of one of Julia Roberts's most famous movies.

Pretty Women went into production under the name 3,000, the amount Julia's working girl was paid for the night, but research showed audiences thought it sounded like the title of a sci-fi flick. Director Garry Marshal settled on the Oribson classic after listening to dozens of hit songs for inspiration.

Occasionally titles are changed to avoid confusion with other projects. Goodfellas was called Wiseguy but changed so as not be mistaken for the Ken Wahl television series. The Real World was the working title for Reality Bites, but was altered when MTV began airing a reality show of the same name.

One of the most famous James Bond titles was improved by a typo.

The story of a villain who creates the next day's headlines and then causes them to come true was called Tomorrow Never Lies, but when a marketing executive mistakenly typed Tomorrow Never Dies in a memo the mistake was deemed more catchy and commercial.

Finally, would you see a movie called Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? Marketers didn't think so and called it Blade Runner instead.

How about The Last First Kiss? That one became the Will Smith movie Hitch.





Madonna. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Madonna being criticized in wake of Colorado shooting

Madonna is coming under fire for using fake guns in her stage show just days after the Aurora, Colo., movie theater massacre, according to the Daily Mail.

The singer was reportedly warned by police before her first performance in Scotland not to use the props, but did so anyway.

The fake guns used in the show include replicas of an AK47 assault rifle and a few handguns.

"Madonna and her dancers using replica guns was always in bad taste, but given what happened in Colorado it is even worse. She should know better," a spokesperson for Mothers Against Guns tells the newspaper.

But a source close to Madonna insists the singer is just sticking to her principles.

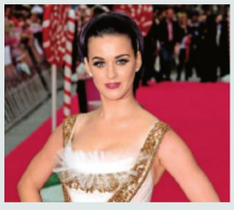
"Madonna would rather cancel her show than censor her art," the source tells the Huffington Post.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Katy Perry makes lewd gestures, also sky still blue



THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Although Madonna is practically begging for someone to complain about her racy MDNA tour, it's Katy Perry who has found herself in legal trouble stemming from an April performance in India.

It seems the singer invited cricket player Doug Bollinger on stage to demonstrate how to hold a cricket bat, and the lesson — which involved Bollinger snuggling up behind Perry and grabbing her below-the-waist microphone — offended a lawyer in the audience enough to file a complaint.

In the case, which will be heard July 31, the lawyer claims that the gesture was "obscene and lascivious" and "distracted students who were writing exams at the time," according to The Sun.

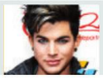
Listen, guys — you're overreacting here. Katy Perry has drenched us with icing from her spinning cupcake bra, and our country's education system is totally fine.

Absolutely nothing to worry about, we promise.

Twitter



@mindykaling
hee hee i like when you're looking at the list of who a guy follows on twitter and it's just famous comedians and girls he's hooked up with



@adamlambert
I'm not Sick. Lol rumors





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The currents in the river make it impossible to swim at Montreal's Clock Tower Beach. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hit the beach — but forget the swimming

Montreal. Sandy haven in city's Old Port is a great place for catching rays; just don't plan to take a dip

It sounded funny at first — a beach at Montreal's Old Port where there's no swimming.

But the scene is actually quite striking. Visitors can bury their feet in soft white sand as they gaze out at city landmarks and a parade of boats going up and down the St. Lawrence River.

Within view are the towering old Molson brewery, the steel trusses of Jacques-Cartier Bridge, and La Ronde, the city's offshore amusement park.

The river's strong current ruled out the possibility of making the beach open to swimming, and the closest sunbathers can get to water are the mist showers. So far, though, the new Clock Tower Beach has been a hit.

"I never thought it would be nice like this," said 65-year-old Pauline Angers, who lives just outside Montreal, as she sipped a juice under a parasol.

"It's lovely. There are so many places with pools, but you don't see this everywhere."

Located on a quay at the city's Old Port, the beach is named after the giant clock tower that stands at the water's edge, alongside a marina filled with motorboats and yachts.

It opened in mid-June, joining dozens of other nearby attractions at what has long been the city's tourist headquarters.

Visitors can amble along the boardwalk or turn into Old Montreal, where outdoor patio restaurants and artists showcasing their works line the cobblestone streets.

There are so many things to do and see — boat cruises, calèche rides, a kid-friendly science centre, a Cirque du soleil performance — that the beach may get passed over by many visitors.

That's not the case for nearby resident Jessica Diano, who decided to get a season's pass.

"I love it," said Diano, 30, as she sunbathed with three friends. "At first it was weird to not have the option to swim, but I don't mind."

In the evening, there's a refreshment stand at the beach offering food and drinks, providing a prime spot to watch fireworks during the summer months. The space may be a little less welcoming to children.

On a recent weekend afternoon, there were a few dozen people at the beach, but only a handful of kids. Without a pool, there's little for them to do but play with sand toys and cool off in the mist showers.

"I think if someone makes a trip specifically for this, I'm not sure if it's worth it," said Marco Quirion, who had biked to the beach from a Montreal suburb with his partner and two kids.

Angers disagrees.

She has already made several trips to the beach since it opened and plans to return. She said it's a great place to find a quiet haven just steps from the buzz of the city.

"Normally, you have to travel to find sand like this," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"At first it was weird to not have the option to swim, but I don't mind."

Clock Tower Beach visitor Jessica Diano

If you go...

- **The Clock Tower Beach.** Is located at Montreal's Old Port at the Quai de l'Horloge, which begins at the end of Bonsecours Street, near de la Commune Street.
- **Hours.** Open every day until Sept. 2, between 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. On fireworks night and special events, it closes at 11 p.m.
- **Daily admission.** Five years old and younger are free; 6 to 12 years old, $3; 13 to 59 years old $6; 60 years and older $5. Family rates are also available.
- **For more information.** Visit oldportofmontreal.com/clock-tower-beach.html.

3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Sleep in a London cab during the Olympics

A London taxi driver has come up with a novel way of solving the Olympic hotel dilemma: Visitors can sleep in his cab for $78. Cabbie David Weekes had feared that busy traffic throughout the Olympics and special road lanes for Olympic VIPs would mean fewer taxi fares. So he's converted his traditional black London taxi into a cozy single bed with a Union Jack blanket. Weekes said some London taxi drivers think working during the Olympics will be "a total waste of time" because of the congestion. But others like himself will be driving during the games, which run from July 27 to Aug. 12.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

New Vancouver urban winery brings wine-on-tap concept to B.C. consumers

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Redpath Sugar Museum: The sweetest place in Toronto



Richard Feltoe is the curator at the Redpath Sugar Museum.
TORY ZIMMERMAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City landmark. Learn a little about Canada's oldest sugar refining company — and watch the boats come in from the Caribbean

Anyone with a sweet tooth will be fascinated to learn about Canada's oldest sugar refining company during a free visit to the Redpath Sugar Museum.

The museum, housed within the hulking refinery on the Toronto waterfront, is chockfull of exhibits on the refining of sugar and the making of sugar products. Sugar has been around for centuries. It was imported in Canada's early days, but John Redpath's creation of the refinery made it widely available and gave him a monopoly.

Curator Richard Feltoe, who's been welcoming school groups and independent visitors alike for decades, tailors his tours to everyone's interests with facts and figures galore on manufacturing, production and nutrition. Redpath Sugar was started by John Redpath, a stonemason who immigrated from Scotland to Montreal and became one of the largest building contractors in Canada.

Before he got going with the sugar business at age 57 in 1854, he was involved in the building of Montreal's General Hospital, Notre-Dame Basilica and parts of McGill University.

But it was the work he did on a transportation network that included the Lachine and Rideau canals that opened up the interior of Canada. The Redpath Sugar factory was located on the banks of the Lachine. But by 1900, the canal was too narrow to accommodate ocean-going vessels.

"They began looking for an alternate facility and picked the Toronto waterfront which was being infilled at that time. The plant was constructed between 1957 to 1959 to coincide with the opening of St. Lawrence Seaway, which allowed large ocean-going vessels to reach Toronto. And that's why we are here today," Feltoe explains.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sugar Beach

Sugar Beach. A public park east of the factory is on land that used to be leased from the city by Redpath. The beach is an excellent vantage point to watch huge vessels carrying raw sugar from the Caribbean get unloaded.



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Agave-BBQ Roasted Chicken: All the sweet taste, none of the hangover

Agave nectar — the current darling of the alternative sweetener world — is made from the same plant that is used to produce tequila. And it goes down so much easier (squeeze of lime and dash of salt are optional).

But let's start with some basics. Agave nectar is an amber liquid that resembles honey, but has a cleaner, sweeter, even fruitier flavour. Not long ago it was mostly unheard of in North America, existing primarily in the backwaters of the natural foods world.

In recent years, it has evolved into a booming $200 million industry. Suddenly, it's being used in everything from ketchup and barbecue sauce to baked goods and ice cream.

Here it's used to make a delicious roasted chicken.

Agave-Barbecue Roasted Chicken



This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 3- to 5-lb whole chicken
- Kosher salt and black pepper

Barbecue sauce

- 6-oz can tomato paste
- 5 tbsp agave syrup
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 5 tbsp cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp black pepper

1. Heat the oven to 400 F.

2. Place chicken on cutting board with breast down. Use kitchen shears to cut from neck hole down the length of the backbone and out the rump. Repeat on the other side of the backbone. Discard the backbone. The cutting will require a little effort, but the shears should cut through the bones without too much difficulty. Spread open the chicken, exposing the cavity.

3. Sprinkle inside with salt and pepper. Overturn the chicken and place it cavity side down in a roasting pan just a bit larger than the chicken. Gently press the chicken to flatten. Season over and under the skin with salt and pepper. Cover tightly with foil and roast for 30 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, prepare the barbecue sauce. In a medium bowl, whisk together all ingredients. Set aside.

5. After the chicken has roasted for 30 minutes, remove the pan from the oven and remove the foil. Use a pastry brush to brush the barbecue sauce thickly over the entire chicken. Return the chicken to the oven and roast for another 30 minutes, or until the meat at the thickest part reaches 165 F.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Orange-Lemon-Lime Tea-Ade

- 8 bags black tea
- 4 bags mint tea
- 6 cups boiling water
- 3/4 cup sugar
- Ice
- Juice of 4 oranges
- Juice of 2 lemons and 2 limes

In a 1-gallon pitcher, combine the black tea bags, mint tea bags and boiling water. Let steep for 5 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to remove the tea bags, squeezing them over the pitcher to extract as much liquid as possible. Add the sugar, stirring until it is dissolved. Stir in the orange, lemon and lime juices, then add enough ice to fill the pitcher.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Advice

More questions and answers from the workplace law trenches



WORKPLACE LAW
Daniel Lublin
dan@canadaemployment lawyer.com
Twitter: @danlublin

Discrimination

Employees often believe that any form of differential treatment amounts to discrimination. However, it is only differential treatment based on a defined set of personal characteristics, such as age, race and religion that forms the basis of a legal claim. Employers can discipline or dismiss employees for personal reasons with impunity. It is only where those reasons are based on human rights grounds that employees have grounds to complain.

Privacy

Last week I wrote an article about Aleem Ghanny, an employee who lost his case even though he was fired because he failed to return to a comparable job. His wife later wrote me to complain that my article was an "invasion of his privacy," which is an interesting position, except that it is clearly wrong. If you are going to sue your employer, there is always a possibility that you may lose the case and if you do, a judge's decision becomes public, for everyone to read and comment. Employees, and their lawyers, should consider this risk before marching steadfastly to the courtroom doors.

Performance appraisals or disciplinary letters

I was recently asked whether an employee must sign off on a poor performance appraisal or disciplinary letter in order for it to be enforceable. This occurred in the context of an employee who received a negative letter but instead of acknowledging her understanding of the terms, she signed the letter back stating she disagrees with its contents.

Employers do not need employees to agree to negative letters or discipline in order for it to be effective. They must only show that the employee was given the letter. Here, by expressing her protest in writing, the employee demonstrated that she understood what she received and, in fact, that she received it.

Internet legal advice

Every employee now seems to be a workplace law "expert," able to find plenty of free legal advice about employment law on the Internet, which most of the time is plainly wrong.

Be careful. If you are going to challenge your employer's decisions, however unjust, first make sure your view of the law is correct.

DANIEL A. LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN. HE CAN BE REACHED AT DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM



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TOTAL BODY LASER CLINIC CELEBRATES GRAND RE-OPENING

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Total Body Laser Clinic is celebrating its grand re-opening this Saturday. Its staff boast lots of industry experience and have extensive accreditation.

This really shouldn't come as a surprise because the three people behind the business have known each other for almost 30 years.

Not just business partners, the three view themselves as family and treat their customers as such.

"We get a lot of compliments from people saying they find the environment very warm and welcoming," says laser technician Kelly Chambers.

Located at the Rockingham Ridge Plaza in Clayton Park, Total Body Laser Clinic specializes in laser skin care treatments, including hair removal, photo rejuvenation treatments and tattoo removal.

Since setting up shop in 2009, the business had grown to the point where it needed a larger location. As a result, it moved to a new location within the shopping complex where it was already located.

On Saturday, Total Body Laser Clinic will celebrate its grand re-opening with an exciting day full of activities, including giving out free gift certificates to the first 20 people who visit the clinic. People who receive services on Saturday will receive a voucher for 50 per cent off their next treatment.

The grand re-opening will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will also include a charity barbecue. The team of Bruce and Emma from FX 101.9 will also be on hand for the grand re-opening. There will also be a draw to win a basket of services from Total Body Laser Clinic, as well as other services from local businesses.

ON THE WEB

For people wanting to know about the latest specials being offered by Total Body Laser Clinic, its website — totalbodylaser.ca — should be a favourite on your internet browser. Specials are also posted to Total Body Laser Clinic's Facebook page. Besides the online options, people can call the clinic at 407-7223 to find out more.

With the month of July nearing an end, the current special is for laser hair removal packages, with packages of six sessions selling for about a third off the regular price. These packages cover body parts such as the underarm, bikini and back. As a bonus, a free eyebrow wax is offered with every service.

Total Body Laser Clinic is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by special appointment outside of those hours.

The business is a member of the Better Business Bureau and maintains an A+ rating.

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*Expire Sept. 30. For more details visit totalbodylaser.ca

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HEAD TO TOE SKINCARE TREATMENTS

At Total Body Laser Clinic, its laser skin technicians offer a wide range of services to help people with their skincare needs.

Technician, Marina Munroe, focuses on the removal of things such as tattoos, spider veins, sunspots, birthmarks and port-wine stains.

"I can treat anything that is flat on the skin or has been seen by a dermatologist and is deemed worthy of removal," she says.

Technician, Kelly Chambers, offers laser hair removal for both coarse and fine hair, which means she can do laser hair removal for people of all ethnicities.

Chambers also offers photo rejuvenation services, such as the correction of rosacea, sunspots, broken capillaries in the face, uneven skin tones, large pores, acne clearance, skin tightening and facial texture.

She even has a fascinating piece of equipment called a Skin Scanner Analyzer, which allows people to see if they have suffered any lasting skin damage from sun exposure, excess oil production, broken capillaries or dehydration.

With every consultation she does, Chambers offers a free skin analysis using this machine.

"It's an eye opener to see the damage that has been caused over the years," says Chambers.

With its new bigger and better location (still in the Rockingham Ridge Plaza in Clayton Park), Total Body Laser Clinic has plans in the works to expand its offerings over the next few months.

Soon, it will offer massage therapy services, Botox and Juvéderm treatments from a Registered Nurse/medical esthetician, gel nails, as well as Casmara peel-off masks.



Total Body Laser Clinic uses the latest, state-of-the-art technology for its laser skin care treatments.

TOTAL BODY LASER CLINIC BOASTS HIGHLY TRAINED STAFF AND THE BEST LASER TECHNOLOGY

At Total Body Laser Clinic, clients can rest assured they will be well looked after by the experienced and fully-accredited staff.

"The industry is constantly evolving, so you have to keep up on your training and stay cutting edge," says laser technician, Kelly Chambers.

For Chambers and fellow laser technician Marina Munroe, this means they pursue the latest accreditations. In the last two years alone, the two have travelled to Montreal and Vancouver to add additional designations.

By staying on top of the latest trends, the staff at Total Body Laser Clinic are experts at using their laser equipment, which is state-of-the-art.

"It's all about safety when you're using equipment like this," says Munroe.

It also helps that Munroe and Chambers ensure all clients are a good medical fit for a treatment. As well, if they doubt that a treatment is appropriate, they will have the client get approval from their dermatologist before proceeding with the treatment.

Before going through a full treatment, Total Body Laser Clinic does a test patch on clients, which is done 24 to 48 hours prior to a session to see if the treatment is an appropriate fit for individuals. The test patch is done on an inconspicuous area of skin.

Both Chambers and Munroe have plenty of industry experience, with Chambers boasting 13 years of experience. In fact, for the first six years in the profession, she worked under a dermatologist, thus giving her an exceptional foundation to build her career upon.

"You need to have a lot of experience," says Chambers. "You need to work under the eye of a dermatologist or a doctor before being able to use this technology."

Not surprisingly, Total Body Laser Clinic has developed a loyal client base — Munroe has clients who travel from places as far away as the Northwest Territories, Newfoundland and Cape Breton to receive treatments from her.

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Halifax scores with choice

JON TATTRIE
For Metro

Halifax is blessed with a range of great golf courses, some ideal for your first trip to the links and others catering to experienced golfers.

Terry Burns of Golf Nova Scotia says it's worth researching your options before booking a tee time.

"Price dictates the type of course. You have your recreational courses for the recreational golfers, and then you have the courses for the guy or lady that wants to play more spectacular courses," he says.

Greens fees range between $50 and $100, with recreational courses at the lower end of the budget and exclusive courses at the top.

Some courses offer "twilight rates" if you start later in the day and mid-week is sometimes cheaper than weekends. The price on the course's website is generally the full price, so you will want to call to find about less expensive times.

Greens fees just get you on the course — renting clubs and a cart costs extra. If you want to buy your own clubs, you can pay anywhere between $200 and $1,500.

"Go to the golf shops to get outfitted properly," Burns says. They will help you figure out the quality of clubs that will best suit your game. If you are just playing for fun and infrequently, rentals might be the way to go.

Burns says the busiest time of the day is from 7 a.m. to noon, with weekends being the most packed. If you want to avoid the crowd, and avoid feeling rushed, try mid-week and midday.

Options

"Price dictates the type of course. You have your recreational courses for the recreational golfers, and then you have the courses for the guy or lady that wants to play more spectacular courses."
Terry Burns, Golf Nova Scotia

"If you're a beginner, you're better off to try some of the recreational courses," Burns says.

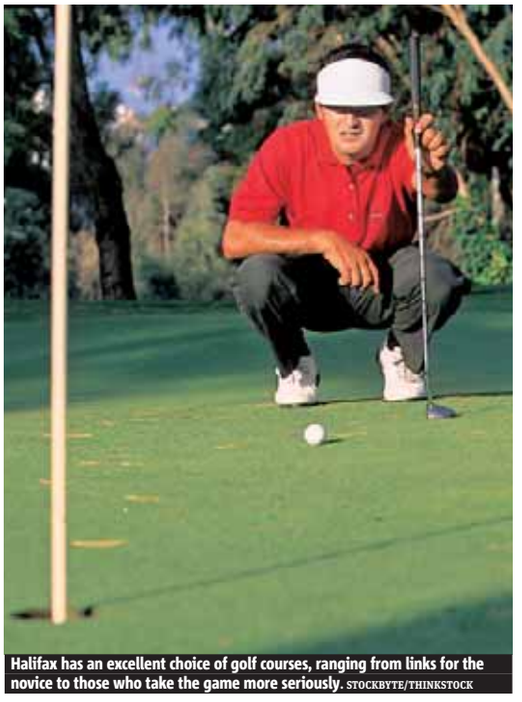
Start with nine holes, rather than burning out on 18. Consider taking lessons before your first visit to a course to learn how to handle the clubs and to familiarize yourself with the etiquette of the game.

"It'll probably get frustrating if you don't know some of the fundamentals of the game," he says.

Bear in mind that late summer and early fall can offer enhanced scenery as leaves change, while still providing superb weather. You might also find cheaper rates in the shoulder season.

For the actual courses, Burns points to high-end ones like Glen Arbour in Hammonds Plains, home of the Skins Game, or Lost Creek in Beaver Bank. For the recreational golfer, check out Granite Springs on Prospect Road or Uniacke Pines in Mount Uniack

For a full list of courses, go to Golfnovascotia.com.


Halifax has an excellent choice of golf courses, ranging from links for the novice to those who take the game more seriously. STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK







Don't let heat drive you to a meltdown



If it's hot out and you still want to play golf, think about renting a cart, even if it's just for the back nine. BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

Summer conditions. Heat can play havoc with your golf game if you aren't careful

JON TATTRIE
For Metro

The long stretch of clear summer weather warming Halifax makes it the perfect time to work on your golf stroke, but without precautions you might find yourself working on a heat stroke.

Spending a day under the hot sun doesn't have to make you queasy, says Awareness Golf teacher Ed Hanczaryk. He should know — in addition to being named one of Canada's top 50 teachers and Nova Scotia coach for the Canada Games golf team, he is originally from the southern U.S.

"I'm from Jacksonville, Fla., so this really doesn't feel hot to me," he laughs.

"Heat is summer in Jacksonville. You don't want to stop playing because it beats rain."

He says a full day of golf will tucker you out, regardless of the sun, so if you are a regular golfer, spend some off-course time keeping in shape.

"If it's really too hot and you still want to play, get a golf cart," he urges. "Maybe walk the front nine and ride the back."

If possible, avoid playing under the noon sun. Wear light, loose-fitting clothing, a hat that protects your face and neck, and drink plenty of water. Some clubs don't have any refreshments on the course, meaning you should bring your own.

"Drink often. Have a sip every hole because you don't know until it's too late that you're dehydrated," he says.

Hanczaryk takes advantage of the leafy sections of many Halifax courses by hanging out in the shade while waiting for other golfers. When you walk the course, take the side of the fairway to avoid the direct sun.

Hanczaryk says physically overheated golfers can become mentally overheated golfers and see their game fall apart. As a Zen Golf Certified Instructor, he urges a mindful approach to not losing your mind.

"Sometimes we just get exhausted and your mind gets too lackadaisical," he says.

An unfocused, heat-dazzled mind tends to direct golf balls into the rough. "You just can't wait until the round is over and you're really not paying attention to the shots."

He teaches his students to practise meditation as part of their preparation for the links. A cool mind helps ensure a cool body — and a great day of golf.

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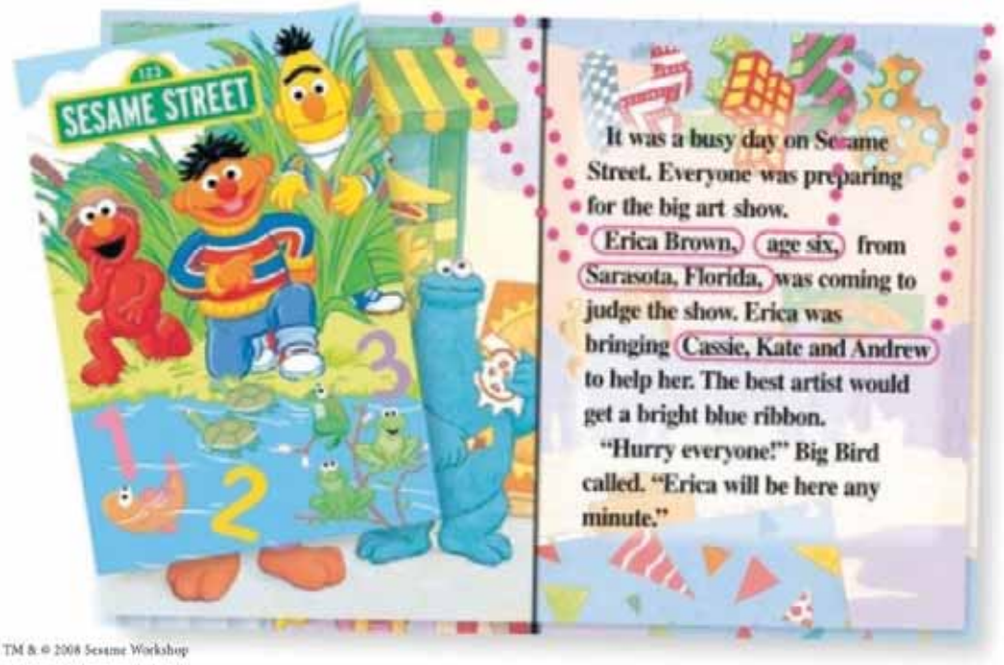
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NHL labour talks

NHLPA is close to making its CBA counter-proposal

The NHL Players' Association is almost ready to table its own vision for a new collective bargaining agreement.

As negotiations with the NHL resumed Tuesday, NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr indicated that the union was getting close to responding to the league's initial proposal, which included a decreased share of hockey-related revenue, term limits on contracts and a 22 per cent salary rollback.

"I doubt that it will be weeks, plural," said Fehr. "But could it be two? Yeah. It could be two, it could be less."

The sides have entered gently into talks. This week's three-day session in Toronto marks the fifth consecutive week Fehr and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman have sat across the table from one another, but they still seem to be feeling their way into the process.

The NHL delivered its initial CBA proposal to the union during a bargaining session on July 13. In response, the NHLPA requested a "fair amount of additional information," according to Fehr.

"They've indicated that they're in the process of compiling it and will get it to us," Fehr said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Memorial Cup, minus two figurines, is displayed during an event with the Shawinigan Cataractes as president Real Breton speaks on May 31 at the legislature in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cataractes D-man sorry for damaging trophy

CHL. Shawinigan's Donnelly will have to pay for repairs to Memorial Cup, team general manager says

Shawinigan Cataractes defenceman Dillon Donnelly has apologized for damaging the Memorial Cup and said it was an accident.

But the son of former NHL rearguard Gord Donnelly will be billed for the repairs by the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League team.

The 19-year-old Colorado Avalanche prospect sent a message on Twitter on Tuesday that said: "Breaking the Memorial Cup was an accident. I picked it up, lost my balance and dropped it. There was no intention to break. I'm sorry."

The junior hockey championship trophy looked like a wreck in pictures published this week. The metal cup at the top was bashed in and the wooden base was cracked. Each player on the championship team is allowed 24 hours to celebrate with the cup at home, provided the team takes out $50,000 in insurance against damages.

Cataractes general manager Martin Mondou said Donnelly will have to pay.

"You have to be responsible for your behaviour," he said.

Mondou had not yet spoken to Donnelly about the damages, but said the issue "will be resolved between us, the league and the kid. Nobody else."

Two figurines of hockey players on either side of the cup were missing, but they fell off long before Donnelly had the trophy on July 13 in Montreal.

Mondou said the figurines came off twice when the team was presented the cup following their victory on home ice in the final against the London Knights in May.

The Canadian Hockey League, the umbrella group for the three Canadian-based major junior leagues, has asked that the cup be returned immediately to Toronto.

Some Cataractes players who had not yet had their day with the cup will miss their turn, said Photi Sotiropoulos, spokesman for the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

He said the team is held responsible for the cup, not any individual players.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Replica

- The original 1919 Memorial Cup is kept permanently at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.
- The damaged one is a replica, but can cost thousands of dollars to repair when badly damaged.

Nashville Predators hang on to Shea Weber

The Nashville Predators have matched the staggering offering sheet made by the Philadelphia Flyers for defenceman Shea Weber.

The Predators made sure on Tuesday they will keep their star defenceman when they decided to pay him $110 million US over 14 years. Weber, 26, is the Predators captain and played on a $7.5-million arbitrator's award last season. He had 19 goals and 49 points along the way.

Nashville already lost free-agent defenceman Ryan Suter to Minnesota this summer, and losing Weber would have been an unexpected blow to a defence-first team that had 104 points last season.

The Flyers were looking for someone to fill the void left by Philadelphia defenceman Chris Pronger's absence.

Weber hoped he would land in Philadelphia. Now, he will likely end his career in Nashville.

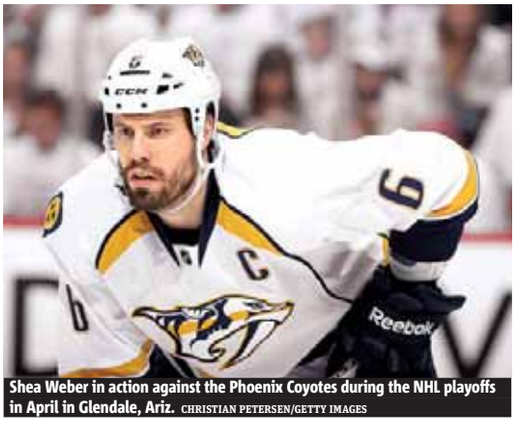
"In tendering an offer sheet to Shea Weber, we were trying to add a top defenceman entering the prime of his career," Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said. "With Nashville matching our offer, we wish Shea and the Predators all the best."

On behalf of Predators chairman Tom Cigarran, GM David Poile and CEO Jeff Cogen, the team released a statement that called the Weber signing "the most important hockey transaction in franchise history."

Weber is a three-time all-star who helped Canada win gold in the 2010 Olympics, and is also is the mainstay of the Predators' defensive-minded approach. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Commitment

The Predators said they wanted to send a message to their fans that they remain committed to fielding a Stanley Cup contender.



Shea Weber in action against the Phoenix Coyotes during the NHL playoffs in April in Glendale, Ariz. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

4 SPORTS

NFL

"I think I'm looking forward to it more than any season in my life."

New York Jets coach Rex Ryan has slimmed down and toned down his comments, but he is still plenty confident and eager to get this season going. Having Tim Tebow in green and white isn't the only reason. His biggest task will be erasing the bitterness of finishing 8-8 and missing the playoffs for the first time in his three years as coach.

"Maybe there's some doubt about my coaching ability or whatever.... I can't wait to show people. That mentality has carried me my whole life."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobile sports

Ichiro Suzuki's skills might be on the downswing, but his star still shines bright back home. After 12 years in Seattle, "the top Japanese athlete in the world" was traded to the Yankees on Monday and now, with a realistic chance to win a World Series, has created tremendous buzz in his motherland. Scan the code for the story.

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Canada can expect to catch 22 in London

The Canadian Olympic Committee and its Own the Podium program set a goal of a top-12 finish for Canada at the London Olympics.

Using the 2008 Beijing Games as a gauge, that's 24 medals.

Canada's previous high was 22 in 1996. Canada tied for 14th in Beijing with 18 medals and was 19th at the 2004 Games in Athens with 12.

Here are some predictions of where Canada's medals will come from:

BOXING, 1 medal: Mary Spencer may have needed an assist from the IOC to get to London after losing her first bout at the world championships in May, but the three-time world champ can't be overlooked.

CANOE/KAYAK, 1 medal: Kayaker Adam van Koeverden has worked too hard on his 1,000 metres not to win a fourth career Olympic medal.

CYCLING, 2 medals: Two is conservative. Canada is a contender on the road, track and trail. Mountain biker Catharine Pendrel is a favourite for gold.

DIVING, 2 medals: Jennifer Abel is a potential double medallist in women's individual springboard and synchro springboard with Emilie Heymans. Alex Despatie brings the experience of winning two Olympic medals, but he's coming off a head injury.

EQUESTRIAN, 1 medal: Canada has depth in dressage, eventing and show jumping. The best bet for a medal is in team show jumping.



GYMNASTICS, 2 medals: Between them, Rosannagh MacLennan and three-time medallist Karen Cockburn should produce a medal in women's trampoline. If both can, bonus.

ROWING, 4 medals: Canadian rowers have a tradition of making the podium and they are expected to continue that trend in London.

SWIMMING, 3 medals: Distance freestyler Ryan Cochrane is chasing two medals. Julia Wilkinson, Martha McCabe, Brent Hayden and open-water swimmer Richard Weinberger are podium possibilities.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING, 1 medal: The team of Elise Marcotte and Marie-Pier Boudreau-Gagnon were fourth in the world last year.

TAEKWONDO, 1 medal: A silver medallist in Beijing, Karine Sergerie remains ranked No. 2 in the world in the 67-kilogram class.

TRACK AND FIELD, 1 medal: Anything less than a medal from shot-putter Dylan Armstrong is underachieving. Jessica Zelinka has an outside shot in heptathlon.

TRIATHLON, 1 medal: The question is, who can produce it? Paula Findlay was the woman to beat until she was injured a year ago. How she'll do in London is a mystery. Otherwise, it's up to veteran Simon Whitfield or Kyle Jones, who has begun to establish himself in the world's elite.

WRESTLING, 2 medals: Olympic champ Carol Huynh attempts to defend her 48-kilogram title, while Ms. Reliable Tonya Verbeek looks for a third Olympic medal. Martine Dugrenier and Leah Callahan are contenders, too.

TOTAL: 22 medals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



'Melo fantastic in friendly versus Spain

U.S. forward Carmelo Anthony, centre, duels for the ball with Serge Ibaka and Pau Gasol on Tuesday during an Olympic exhibition game in Barcelona, Spain. Anthony came off the bench to score 23 of his 27 points in the first half, and the Americans beat Spain 100-78 in a rematch of the 2008 gold-medal game — and possible preview of the next one. DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

Canuck women in tough early

Soccer. On eve of Olympic opener, Canadian team discusses matchup with world champion Japan

John Herdman hasn't had to bolster his players with any special messages of motivation, or implement any team-building strategies since they touched down in England.

Ten months after he took on the task of mending the battered psyche of Canada's women's soccer team, and a day before his squad opens its London Olympic campaign, the coach said his players are all-business and more than ready.

"That's the brilliance of this group, there's a maturity there," Herdman said following his team's final practice in Coventry before its opener. "They're managing internally everything they need to, to be ready for the Games. So my message has been really simple: Keep doing what you're doing."

The Canadians open versus World Cup champion Japan in Coventry on Wednesday, two days before the opening ceremonies. Canada is seeking redemption after a horrible showing at the World Cup last summer in Germany — a last-place finish that led to the departure of coach Carolina Morace and the hiring of Herdman.

The Canadians face what could be their toughest test of the tournament, playing a Japanese squad that knocked off the perennial power United States in a penalty shootout to win the World Cup in Germany.

Canadian midfielder Sophie Schmidt calls Japan a "Barcelona-type team."

"Japan is a special team, just in the way they pass the ball," Schmidt said. "We've had discussions. We know we won't have the ball for most of the game, so we just have to take advantage when we do, make most of our chances when we do get them."

The seventh-ranked Canadians and No. 3 Japan have played each other to three wins, three losses and three draws. But Japan has been on the rise since its fourth-place finish in Beijing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted



"They're a pleasure to watch, and have taken the women's game to another level in terms of technical ability."

Canada women's soccer coach John Herdman on Wednesday's matchup with Japan.



History meets rock 'n' roll at venue



Canada's Olympic men's beach volleyball team practises Tuesday at a venue situated behind the Horse Guard Parade building in London. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beach volleyball. Canadian players are savouring the opportunity to play at a site in the shadows of historic buildings

AC/DC, Led Zeppelin and the Beach Boys blared Tuesday as Canadians hit the sand to train in what will likely become one of the London Olympics' most iconic venues.

The beach volleyball venue is set in the shadow of the Horse Guard Parade, a site that dates back to 1745 and takes its name from the soldiers who have provided protection for the monarch since 1660.

It is perhaps best known for the annual Trooping the Colour event that takes place on the Queen's birthday.

But for 13 days starting Saturday, it will be a rock 'n' roll sandbox filled with athletic beefcake and hard-bodied women in itsy-bitsy bikinis.

It's a sport that is the antithesis of golf — fans are encouraged to rock out. The beach party takes place in an intimate, temporary stadium that seats 15,000 and wraps around a court stocked with some 5,000 tonnes of sand brought from a quarry in Godstone, Surrey.

"It's amazing," said Marie-Andree Lessard, sporting a huge grin. "It's so vibrant. The sand's beautiful. The colour's awesome. The site is of utmost beauty and of great historic value as well. So I think we're very grateful and happy to be playing here."

Martin Reader added: "Beautiful venue. Amazing place in London."

The venue is sure to become one of the television images of the Games, especially from high in the stand that faces the Horse Guard Parade building.

But the entire site is packed with history. Surrounding buildings include the Old Admiralty Building, Household Cavalry Museum, Scotland Office and St. James's Park and the Guards Memorial.

The Duke of Wellington was based in Horse Guards when he was in charge of the British army.

Both the Canadian men and women open on the weekend against host Britain.

The Canadian men had to win in Mexico to get Canada an Olympic spot.

"There were a few thousand Mexican fans yelling not the nicest things at us," said Reader's partner, Josh Binstock. "But we relish that. I love playing the spoiler, I love being the bad guy. Of course, I love being supported and loved but either way it's fun having that pressure on us."

After Mexico, the duo had to defeat a rival pair to book their ticket to London.

Given that happened July 14 for both pairs, it made for a whirlwind week before the men headed to Austria to refocus on the Games.

"Literally the moment after we won, we were just getting pulled (from all sides)," said Binstock. "And that lasted for the whole week. I don't remember just sitting down and enjoying a meal the whole week."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted



"It really doesn't matter where we play. We just have to play the best possible."

Canadian beach volleyball player Martin Reader, who doesn't believe the surroundings and conditions will affect his play



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A two-sizes-fits-all approach



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Review. Two sizes to keep families of all sizes on the move

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

So, two sizes of the 2013 Hyundai Santa Fe are on the menu. It seems familiar.

Mitsubishi recently got the ball rolling in this direction for the 2011 model year when it introduced the RVR in Canada, which is a shortened version of its regular-length Outlander. On a grander scale, General Motors and Ford employ this approach with their big-and-beefy sport utes while a number of minivans once offered two body sizes. Even Hyundai-owned Kia made two lengths of its Sedona minivan.

But since passenger-car-based tall wagons have replaced much of the minivan trade, Hyundai is also applying the two-sizes-fits-all approach to its third-generation Santa Fe that launches later this summer.

Actually it's the shorter-wheelbase five-passenger iteration that arrives first, followed by the extended-length seven-passenger Santa Fe in early 2013. The face of each, while differing slightly, features Hyundai's signature hexagonal grille.

A prominent crease extending along each side and flowing over the taillights replaces the previous Santa Fe's more rounded look. The entire design is both conservative, yet entirely stylish, and should be greeted by approving nods from most shoppers.

As of this writing, pricing has yet to be released, but the five-passenger model will likely start at about $26,000 (including destination charges), with the longer Santa Fe adding roughly $4,000.

Both promise to provide spirited performance and impressive fuel economy as their primary virtues, with good looks and practical packaging also coming along for the ride.

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Employee Pricing is not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFP, Daily Rental Allowance and AX/ZD/F-Plan programs. *** Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2012 F-150 4X2 3.7L V6 SST: 12.7 L/100km city and 8.9L/100km hwy based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lbs GVWR, non-hybrid vs. 2011/2012 comparable competitor engines. ≈ When properly equipped. Max. towing of 11,300 lbs with 3.5L EcoBoost and 6.2L 2 valve 4X2 V8 engines. Max. payload of 3,120 lbs with 5.0L Ti-VCT V8 engines. Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lbs GVWR, non-hybrid. ^^ Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the [2012] [Fiesta 1.6L I-4 5 speed manual/Focus 2.0L I-4 6 Speed Auto/F-150 4x2 3.7L-V6 6 speed SST] Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. 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A lesson in automotive finance

Autopilot



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca



While longer finance terms can look very appealing, it could come back to bite you in the future. ISTOCK

Before I launch into a revealing auto finance comparison from Statistics Canada, and possibly lose your attention for good, here's a short bit from comedian Steven Wright: "I had parked in a tow-away zone, and when I got back, the entire neighbourhood was gone."

In 2007, only 6.4 per cent of buyers in Canada purchased a new vehicle with a payment term of 72 months or greater. Today, 40 per cent of buyers finance their vehicle over six years or more.

There was a time when you couldn't even finance a vehicle for more than three years. More and more of us are spreading the cost of a vehicle purchase over longer and longer periods of time.

Is this a good trend? Probably not.

And this is not me lecturing about money matters, 'cause that would be like Donald Trump scolding other guys about comb-overs.

Instead, consider the auto industry analysts over at J.D. Power and Associates, who recently noted one of the prime pitfalls of longer term financing — the greater potential for buyers to find themselves in a not-so-nice credit position known as "under water."

Another term for it is "negative equity." Whatever you call it, it's a scenario where the buyer owes more on the loan than the vehicle is worth. Basically, it's a case of your car loan payments not even keeping up with the vehicle's depreciation, which can happen when you stretch the term out so long, to 72 months and beyond, to keep monthly payments as low as they can possibly go.

In 2007, 17 per cent of car deals were "under water," compared with 26 per cent today.

This is obviously not a huge problem if you plan to keep the car forever, or even just past the finance period. But should you find yourself needing to sell or trade the vehicle sooner, well… then you'll be out of pocket for the difference between what the car is worth and how much you still owe on it.

Also note that the longer the finance term, the more interest you'll pay in total. In 2007, when the average car loan was four years, the average total cost of a vehicle loan was 107 per cent of the purchase price. J.D. Power notes that owing to today's extended payment terms, the average total finance cost has risen to 114 per cent of the purchase price.

Vehicle purchases continue to take a bigger slice of our disposable income. In the biz, that slice is known as "share of wallet." But monthly payment amounts on new-vehicles have been basically flat since 2007, when the average payment was $528. J.D. Power figures consumers — and dealers — are using those long-term loan instruments, to keep a lid on automobile's "share of wallet," at least on a monthly basis.

With so much focus on monthly payment schedules, J.D. Power also argues that, "…the MSRP has become irrelevant to new-vehicle buyers. Today's vehicle buyers will trade tomorrow's total cost, in order to balance the monthly checkbook."

Again, we're not lecturing. You're definitely the master of your own "share of wallet," more or less…

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may have to hurt someone's feelings but as you are doing it for the right motives, they won't hold it against you. If something difficult needs to be said, you can be counted on to say it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you are unhappy with your current situation, either at home or at work, now is the time to change it. The planets will help you to make the break you have been dreaming of for months, maybe even years.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is no point kicking up a fuss if you get the blame for something that was not entirely your fault. The simple fact is colleagues and employers are in no mood to listen, so take the criticism then move on.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Make it your business to spread a little happiness today. If you approach life with a smile on your face it will not only help others feel better but will make things a lot easier for you as well.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If you have overlooked details of any kind, it will become obvious today and you will have no choice but to go back and take care of them. Don't make a fuss, just do what you should have done before.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
While in one area of your life you are moving ahead in leaps and bounds, in another you are standing still, much to your frustration. Don't worry. It simply means you are not quite ready for a particular challenge.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today's Sun-Neptune link will make you more touchy than usual, so watch out you don't get upset by the kind of petty things that would usually sail right over your head.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be eager to start something new but the planets advise you to bide your time and let things proceed at their own pace. That may be a slow pace by your standards but things will pick up soon enough.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What do you want most from life? What would you wish for if you knew that your wish would come true? Well start wishing because the planets are so in your favour now that it's a case of "when", not "if".

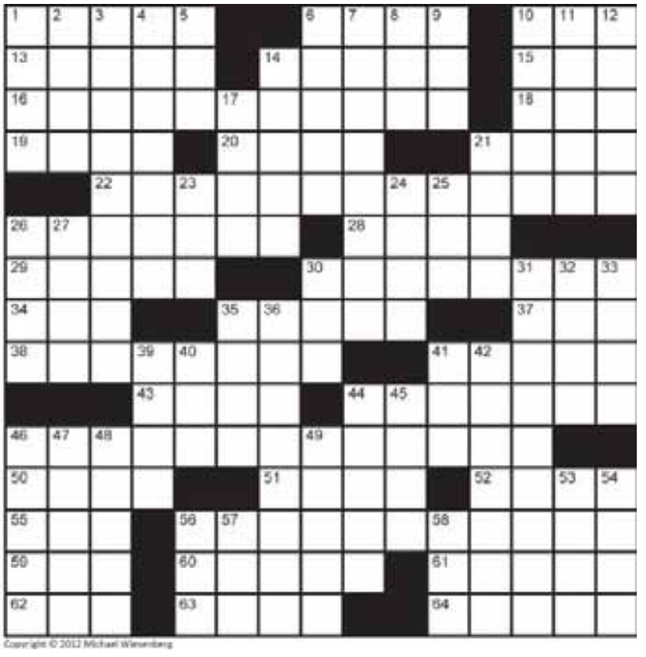
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something you learn today will challenge your way of looking at the world. It may not be a comfortable experience but you must allow it to happen and you must allow your mind to move to a higher level.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You don't have to change course just because others do not approve of what you are doing. In fact, the more opposition you face today the more certain you can be that you are doing the right thing.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Huge changes are on the horizon, and the horizon is getting closer. Are you ready for the challenges that these upheavals will spark, both in your personal life and in your work? SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canadian Cities

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



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Across
1. Composer Previn
6. American RCAF counterpart
10. One in elected office
13. Traditional customs
14. Memory muse
15. ___ Lingus
16. NB capital
18. Sgt.'s underling
19. Ship's spar
20. Cuba, to Cubans
21. Et ___: and others
22. Off-island suburb northwest of 38-Across
26. What's new
28. Vishnu incarnation
29. Alkenes
30. Port at the west end of Lake Ontario
34. Name of eight Eng. kings
35. It treat brains disorders, particularly Parkinson's disease
37. Messenger ___
38. 1976 Summer Games locale
41. Over
43. Norway's Patron saint
44. NHL Hall of Fame locale
46. City in Mauricie region of Quebec at confluence of Saint-Maurice and Saint Lawrence Rivers
50. Fidel's brother
51. Per ___: daily allowance
52. Biblical hit
55. Rearwards
56. Suburb of Toronto where are located the Canadian headquarters of several major international companies, including Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, PepsiCo, General Electric, Siemens, Fujitsu, Walmart Canada
59. "___ Only Had a Brain"
60. Punster's reward
61. Novelist Sinclair who won a Pulitzer for *Dragon's Teeth* in 1943
62. Prevaricate
63. Without
64. Ale and porter

Down
1. Kind of radio
2. Nick's *Thin Man* wife
3. Chew out
4. Common North American hawk, named for its plumage color
5. Siam tail
6. What someone might cry to give up
7. Arranged an ambush
8. I love: Lat.
9. Boggy marsh
10. Symbolic Canadian leaf
11. 501s, e.g.
12. Swing's Shaw
14. Sprays
17. Encircle
21. Sea between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan
23. Special connections
24. W. Syrian city on the Orontes River
25. Queen's recording label
26. Be crawling (with)
27. ___ China
30. Dec. 25 or Jan. 1
31. Metamorphose
32. "Step ___!": "Hurry up!"
33. Small iPod
35. Regan and Goneril's father
36. Town located halfway between Saskatoon and Regina
39. Labor
40. *Treasure Island* author, bibliographically
41. Airport monitor abbr.
42. Flips out
44. Link
45. Computer parts resellers, for short (anagram of SOME)
46. BC City on the Columbia River near the US border
47. One-named singer of children's songs
48. Certain navel, slangily
49. They're checked at some borders
53. Dr. Frankenstein's lab assistant, in films
54. Mementos of beach vacations
56. Classic British sports cars
57. A Gershwin brother
58. U-boat

Friday's crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Friday's Sudoku

7	6	9	5	1	2	8	4	3
4	1	5	9	3	8	6	2	7
3	2	8	7	6	4	1	5	9
2	8	7	1	5	3	9	6	4
1	9	4	8	2	6	3	7	5
5	3	6	4	9	7	2	1	8
9	7	2	6	8	5	4	3	1
8	4	3	2	7	1	5	9	6
6	5	1	3	4	9	7	8	2

	8		5		4		3	
	5	6				7	2	
4								5
		5	3	1	9	6		
		4	6	5	2	1		
1								9
	6	2				3	8	
	7		8		5		6	

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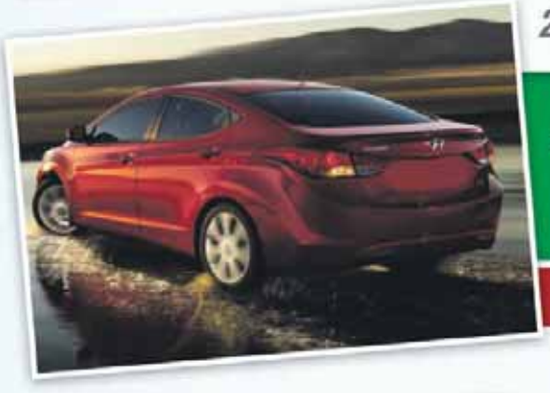
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